April

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THE LIONS' PRIDE MEDIA GROUP

GRADUATION

Letter from the Editor

Where we've been & where we're going

Sophia Sullivan
Editor-in-Chief

What a year it's been, Lions! Here at *The Lions' Pride Media Group*, we like to believe that newspapers are more than just paper and ink—they serve as time machines that what will serve as a reminder of the past for years to come.

Looking back through the archives of this year, it is important to acknowledge the small steps we took in order to see where we're headed next year. The Lions' Pride had a very successful year, and we are proud of it! Take a walk down memory lane with us:

- Through our tireless fundraising efforts, I am proud to say that we raised over $6,000 to help us to continue to produce quality, thought-provoking journalism for our audience.
- Even though the budget was tight, we were able to create five print newspapers for our readers this year. For one of those issues, we had the privilege of covering the 2024 Presidential election which is special as it only occurs every four years.
- We've also been consistently upgrading our content within these print issues. We've included a game page in almost all of our issues this year. Not only is our game page up and running, but we also continue to actively post crosswords on our social media.
- We've moved! After many years spent in the Student Activities Building, you can now find us in rooms 120 & 117 of the Tapia College of Business.

All of these amazing accomplishments are the result of tireless work from our TLPMG staff. Our prints, online platforms, and social media are a testament to the perseverance and creativity of our staff, volunteers, interns, and of course, guidance from Dr. Kasper.

I want to give an especially big thank you to you, our readers. Your support, whether that be liking our Instagram posts or picking up a print issue on campus, means the world to us! I am truly excited to see what this next school year has in store for us.

We will be back in the fall to kick things off with our "Welcome Back" issue. In the meantime, you can stay connected with us this summer by following us on Instagram @lionspridemedia and reading articles on our website in the meantime. We cannot wait to see you back on campus in the fall!

Stop by our office to say hi! (Photo by Sophia Sullivan)

Newsroom

The Lions' Pride Media Group is the student-run publication of Saint Leo University, free from institutional interference from conception to print. We publish in print once monthly, and weekly online at our website and through our social media sites. It is the mission of The Lions' Pride Media to provide accurate news and diverse opinions that are important to the Saint Leo community, and our goal is to inform and entertain readers while providing thought-provoking journalism without fear of reprisal.

We are located in the Student Activities Building

Letter to the Editor & Advertising:

Send letters to the editor to the LionsPrideNewspaper@gmail.com. Guidelines: 500 word maximum. Do not use profane or slanderous language. Faculty must include name and rank. Students must include name, major, and graduation year. Include phone number to verify authorship. We reserve the right to edit for grammar, spelling, or libel.

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TO A NEW CHAPTER!

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The college journey: Navigating the highs and lows of college life

Madison Wilson
Editorials Editor

College life is a very unique experience, offering a blend of exciting opportunities and personal challenges that shape each student's journey.

On the brighter side, college opens the door for academic growth, independence, networking opportunities, lifelong relationships, and a wide range of extracurricular activities.

"After carefully looking back and analyzing my college experience, I can honestly say it's been the best 4 years of my life! I had the opportunity to better my life by not only picking a career path and going to class, but making lasting friendships," said Jaeden Johnson, a senior majoring in accounting.

Academic growth in college often stems from opportunities to engage with professors and peers in the classroom, allowing students to gain knowledge in their chosen fields of study and develop critical thinking skills.

Additionally, college offers a unique opportunity for independence, as students learn to navigate life on their own.

"One of my biggest benefits of college was gaining independence and time management skills by balancing academics and my personal life, said Ian Cori, a senior majoring in accounting.

Students learn to manage their own schedules, finances, and responsibilities, fostering personal growth and strong self-discipline.

"I've learned time management and the importance of being prepared and on time," said Johnson.

Another key benefit is the networking opportunities that come from being on a college campus.

"The biggest benefits were learning valuable skills while making connections. This has helped me gain real-world work experience and meet knowledgeable people from different industries," said Anabelle Lahens, a senior accounting major.

College also introduces students to a diverse range of people, allowing them to form lasting friendships and build professional connections that can benefit their future careers.

"I've met many people who have been able to help me learn and grow, providing additional opportunities which benefitted my work experience and professionalism. Post graduation, I feel ready to go out and start my career while having the necessary knowledge and personal skills to do so," said Jamison Burgess, a senior majoring in accounting.

College life also offers a wide range of extracurricular activities—from clubs and sports to volunteer work and student organizations—giving students the chance to explore their interests, build new skills, and engage in meaningful experiences beyond the classroom.

Starting college can open the door to countless opportunities for growth and self-improvement.

"Attending college, I was able to put myself out there in a different environment, try new things, and, most importantly, be able to learn something new each day," said Huvonnya Minnis, a senior majoring in biomedical science.

College can be a journe y of self-discovery, often guiding students toward passions they never anticipated.

"Before college, I believed my calling was in criminal justice. However, to my surprise, I developed a deep love for marketing. If I hadn't stepped outside my comfort zone by exploring different courses and changing my major, I never would have discovered something I truly enjoy," said Isabella Ruiz, a senior marketing major.

While college life offers bright and exciting opportunities, it also presents its challenges.

One of the biggest downsides is the financial strain it places on students, with many burdened by debt and financial stress.

"The most difficult aspect of college was the cost. Textbooks and other course materials were very expensive and added extra stress when trying to stay on top of classes," said Lahens.

Additionally, the transition to college can be overwhelming. Students must adjust to a new environment, often far from home, while managing the pressures of academics, social life, and personal growth.

Saint Leo University Career Services helps students explore a variety of opportunities, build essential skills, and navigate the path to a successful future. (Photo was taken by Madison Wilson)

"The most difficult aspect of my college experience was living abroad away from family and learning to adjust to an entirely new culture. Learning to adjust to the differences often resulted in isolation," said Minnis.

Academic expectations can also be a heavy burden, leading to stress and burnout. Students often feel pressured to maintain high grades, meet deadlines, and excel in every course.

"The most difficult and frustrating aspects of college life was the academic pressure," said Cori.

Balancing schoolwork with a job, whether on or off campus, can be challenging, as it requires effective time management to juggle academic responsibilities and job demands.

"Balancing a part-time job, internships, assignments, and social commitments was also overwhelming at times. There were moments when it felt like there was no time to relax or connect with friends, which added to the stress," said Ruiz.

While college life offers many opportunities, it is not without its challenges.

Finding the balance between the pros and cons is key to making the most of the college life experience!

From lectures to life lessons: Professors who made an impact

Hadassa Ferreira
Arts & Culture Editor

If there is a fact about college life, it is that it is a period of huge challenges and changes in people's lives. It is a time when youth have to make important decisions about their professional lives while discovering who they are on a deeper level. This is why college professors can be lifechanging.

Superior education is a significant achievement in the lives of many people, and college is an academic stage in which people dive deeper into academic fields to understand how the world's systems operate.

Therefore, having professors who are capable of conveying and delivering complex academic information exceptionally is crucial for students' professional and academic development.

Andreas Cubillos, a senior student majoring in criminal justice, said, "A professor that stands out is Adjunct Professor Rebecca Wilkinson Shields since her engagement in the class helps us learn, debate, and write about issues that are going on in the current criminal justice system."

College Professors can do more than just teach; they have the power to guide students toward the best professional lives they can have and provide meaningful advice that can mark their lives forever, making a significant impact.

At Saint Leo, there are many professors dedicated to not only helping students learn but also helping them deeply engage in the academic and professional fields they choose to be part of.

As a small school, Saint Leo offers the opportunity for students to get close to faculty. Here, students can take advantage of their experience and expertise by connecting with them and listening to what they have to say about the academic subjects students are most interested in.

A professor who made an impact due to her wisdom and the good advice she gives is Dr. Ebony Perez from the Social Work department.

Angèle Guerrier, a senior student majoring in social work with a minor in psychology, said, "In my freshman year, I did an interview with Dr. Ebony Perez and asked her how she believes she evolves every day; her response stuck with me. She said that 'she was not the same person every day.' That she 'was constantly evolving and changing.' That quote really resonated with me! Since then, I've adopted it as a personal mantra. It reminds me that every day is an opportunity to grow, learn, and become a better version of myself."

College life can be challenging and very stressful. Therefore, professors capable of helping students navigate this phase in the best way possible, being supportive and resourceful through their teachings and advice are the ones who will remain in the memories of all for a lifetime.

Senior student Jocelyn Osei-Sasu, who majors in business management, said, "Dr. Tonya Mazur from the College of Business is one professor who has made a great impact on me. She is a constant pillar of kindness and encouragement, and I have enjoyed all her classes so far!"

Osei-Sasu also mentioned, "I love the fact that Dr. Mazur incorporates scenario-based examples into her courses, as this has allowed me to visualize how real-world problems may present themselves and the best ways to solve them."

Sometimes, it might be difficult to discover which career path to follow. The reality is that this world is full of possibilities and issues to solve, and it might be tough for students to discover the best way for them.

However, having professors who narrow the options by presenting the best-fit opportunities is great, and Saint Leo faculty offers this privilege.

Jacqueline Pollok, a senior student majoring in criminal justice with homeland security with a specialization in international studies and a minor in world politics, attested "When I added my second major in my junior year, Dr. Daniel Dubois became my advisor, and his support has been nothing short of amazing."

She continued, "He's always been there to offer guidance and encouragement, introducing me to opportunities I never would have considered on my own."

Pollok also said, "Dr. Dubois' impact on my journey at Saint Leo has been profound, helping me navigate challenges and contributing significantly to my academic and personal growth."

We live in a very challenging world that might see people as less depending on who they are and not even acknowledge all of their capabilities based on their gender, race, social background, etc.

Nevertheless, professors have the duty of seeing all students as equal and incentivizing students' dreams even if they might be difficult due to stereotypical factors.

"A professor who made an impact on me is Professor Hatlem, from the Sports Business department, who never looked at me as less of a student for being a female who wants to pursue a career in Sports Business," said Abby Fortuna, a senior student majoring in sports business with a minor in legal studies.

Fortuna added, "Dr. Mohan is another faculty who made a huge impact on my college life by giving me the confidence to pursue law school and become a sports agent even though it is a rare profession."

College professors have a significant importance in people's lives. From breaking down courses' concepts and catalyzing students' learning processes to providing meaningful insights from their field.

A professor who makes an impact has students who, beyond being academic experts, also know what their place in the world is, and at Saint Leo, those professors are more a rule than an exception.

As we get close to graduation, it is an undeniable fact that many senior students are leaving Saint Leo with the certainty that Saint Leo's professors impacted their lives in a way they will never forget.

Dr. Ebony Perez is an Assistant Professor and the Department Chair of Undergraduate Social Work. She is a racial scholar, and her recent publications include "Talking about Race is Exhausting: Social Work Educators' Experiences Teaching About Race and Racism," Journal of Ethnic & Cultural Diversity in Social Work. (Photo from Undergraduate Social Work IG account: @saintleo_socialworkdept)

Dr. Daniel Dubois is an Associate Professor of History & International Studies at Saint Leo as well as the Director of the Honors Program. His most recent publications include "American Sport in International History." (Photo courtesy of Jacqueline Pollok).

Dr. Tonya Mazur is the Assistant Professor of Management in the College of Business here at Saint Leo. She was a first-generation college student and got her BA in Sociology and MBA, both from Saint Leo University. (Photo courtesy of Manuela Henao-Coca).

Perspective and passion: How Dadez transformed Saint Leo University

Sophia Sullivan
Editor-in-Chief
Josie Osborne
Campus News Editor

One of our favorite stories from Saint Leo University President Dadez revolves around a prism. As he has told us many times, he once encountered two very tall basketball players living in his campus building who were physically uncomfortable in their dorms, forced to live on the top floor without being able to stand upright in the elevator to reach their rooms.

He bought that prism, which sat on his desk throughout his presidency, as a reminder of perspective. And we can say with certainty that throughout his time at Saint Leo University, Dadez always approached things with perspective in mind.

The Lions' Pride Media Group had the absolute privilege of sitting down with Dadez three times during his term to discuss the university and give students a voice in a unique manner. Each time, Dadez met our questions with thoughtful answers and great anecdotes.

After nearly two decades at Saint Leo as vice president of student affairs and visiting professor, Dadez retired in 2018. Just five years later, he was called back to the university to assume a new role: president.

With 14 members of the Dadez family graduating from Saint Leo, including himself, some may say his return was fate. Others, including Dadez, call it passion.

In a past interview with Sullivan, he said, "I've given 100 percent of my time, effort and energy, and sometimes I wonder if it's still enough. I am very passionate about this institution and want to see it get back on its feet and continue to grow."

Everyone may wish his return came under better circumstances, but the truth is, Saint Leo needed Dadez. Before him, our beloved university was under probation and facing serious financial hardship. Thankfully, Dadez was able to change that.

"In the past five years, we had a deficit of about $26 million, and we're nowhere near that. We're in striking distance to be at a surplus," said Dadez during that same interview.

But hard work isn't all Dadez has contributed. He has also fostered a welcoming, loving environment at Saint Leo, always putting people first.

"I've had mentors and colleagues tell me it would be best if I didn't form relationships and friendships with people," Dadez said in 2024. "However, I truly believe relationships are what make this university special, and I can't change who I am."

Including personal donations to multiple programs and scholarships, as well as the connections he has made within the Saint Leo community, it is evident Dadez will leave a lasting impact on our home.

The Lions' Pride thanks Dadez for his many years of service at Saint Leo and his support of our organization. (Photo courtesy of The Lions' Pride Media Group)

Saint Leo University's first graduating class of nurses

Faith Skierkowski
Contributing Writer

During the 2020-21 academic year, Saint Leo University officially launched its first-ever Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program. The university is now celebrating a major milestone: its inaugural graduating class. Commencement is set for Wednesday, May 7, 2025, at the Florida State Fairgrounds in Tampa.

The Bachelor of Science in Health Education and Health Promotion was Saint Leo University's first program related to nursing. In 2021, the university expanded its health sciences offerings with the launch of two new programs: a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and an online Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Therapy.

Over their four years at Saint Leo University, these 12 resilient, compassionate, and well-rounded nursing students received a high-quality education and built lasting connections with their peers and faculty.

Graduate Brenna Reinhard reflected on her experience, saying, "Being part of the first Saint Leo Nursing cohort has been an incredibly unique and rewarding experience. There was something really special about growing alongside the program. We had the chance to help shape the culture and set the tone for future nursing classes. It wasn't always easy—there were definitely growing pains—but the sense of community, support, and dedication from the faculty made a huge difference. I felt seen, heard, and truly supported, both academically and personally."

Saint Leo University aims to equip its graduates with the knowledge and experience needed to enter the workforce at a time when the demand for skilled nurses is at an all-time high.

The university prides itself on remaining true to its core values—something graduate Brenna Reinhard believes truly sets Saint Leo apart.

"What sets Saint Leo apart is the emphasis on values—especially compassion, integrity, and community," she said. "It's not just about becoming a skilled nurse; it's about becoming a whole person who leads with empathy and purpose."

This small, close-knit class of nursing graduates is prepared to serve the community with compassion, while also being eligible to sit for the NCLEX-RN (National Council of State Boards of Nursing Licensure Exam for Registered Nurses).

Dr. Kathleen Van Eerden, dean of the College of Health Professionals at Saint Leo and a registered nurse, says this group of graduates stands out for their hands-on training.

"This nursing cohort was the first to engage in Dedicated Education Units, or specific hospital units for Saint Leo nursing students only, at AdventHealth where they were matched and worked alongside registered nurses. This model provided opportunity for students to collaborate with nurse mentors and work with several patients, providing them with rich, real-world clinical experience."

In February 2025, Saint Leo University celebrated the grand opening of a new state-of-the-art nursing space on the second floor of Benedictine Hall. The renovation of 2,158 square feet of the 4,256-square-foot facility underscores the university's commitment to providing the highest level of education for future nurses. Students will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in lab work, simulation, preceptorships, and clinical healthcare experiences across a variety of settings.

On Monday, May 5, 2025, in the Greenfelder-Denlinger Boardrooms at the Student Community Center, these seniors will participate in a pinning ceremony to mark their graduation from Saint Leo University's inaugural nursing program.

This graduating class of nurses exemplifies Saint Leo University's commitment to developing competent, compassionate, and community-focused healthcare professionals!

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Students building practical life skills

Sayuri Vargas-Hernandez
Contributing Writer

Education is more than textbooks, teachers, and exams. It also includes what the student learns outside of the classroom and how they apply it in real life.

The opportunities they gain outside of school can shape them into the better person they want to become. These lessons can be taught as essential life skills, building character and preparing them for the future.

Many students learn significant lessons outside of class, such as time management. Some students have part-time jobs or have to help at events in their communities. These outside tasks force students to learn how to balance schoolwork and personal responsibilities.

This is where time management becomes an important skill in a student's life. Students realize that having a schedule or using tools such as calendars and reminders enhances their ability to stay organized and productive throughout the day.

As students keep practicing these skills, they start improving for their future jobs, careers, and personal lives.

Another valuable skill often developed inside and outside of the classroom is communication. College students must interact with other students and professors from different age groups, perspectives, and ideas during class.

The positive side of working with different backgrounds is that it teaches students how to speak clearly and listen carefully to others. But this also happens outside of the classroom.

Volunteering is a way for students to learn social responsibility; helping those in need teaches empathy and the value of teamwork, like interacting with each other and sharing different ideas that prepare them to be more compassionate individuals.

For example, students from Saint Leo University participate in community events like Habitat for Humanity, which is all about building homes for families in need. Depending on their major, students can also internship with Meal-on-Wheels, which is dedicated to delivering meals to seniors and those in need.

This improves students' perspective and confidence in speaking with people, allowing them to build stronger connections with them. Communication skills are essential because they make teamwork easier and build trust.

However, life outside the classroom also teaches students to be aware of and learn about different cultures. Saint Leo University is a diverse school, and students have the opportunity to appreciate different cultures, languages, and traditions worldwide. These experiences, such as the Intercultural Pageant, promote openness and respect for others.

Personal development is another critical lesson gained outside of school. Every student faces challenges, which helps them build resilience and emotional strength. In many cases, students fail at a task, which can result in disappointing outcomes, but it teaches them to become more patient and determined.

Failing is a life lesson; students can grow stronger and more confident. They start seeing challenges as opportunities to improve. As a result, students develop emotional intelligence by understanding their feelings and the emotions of others, which can enhance relationships and make them better people overall.

"When I started learning different skills to complete my tasks, I realized that college could be easy. However, it is also important to remember that discipline is not easy. Many students will fail, and it's all good." said Antonio Mata, a student majoring in cybersecurity.

"Students should see it as a learning process. No matter how many times you fail, if you keep trying, you will get your reward at the end of the day, such as graduating from college and chasing your dreams," Mata said.

Learning outside the classroom can also include students applying school knowledge to real-life situations.

For example, students who know about accounting might use it to budget their allowance or start a business.

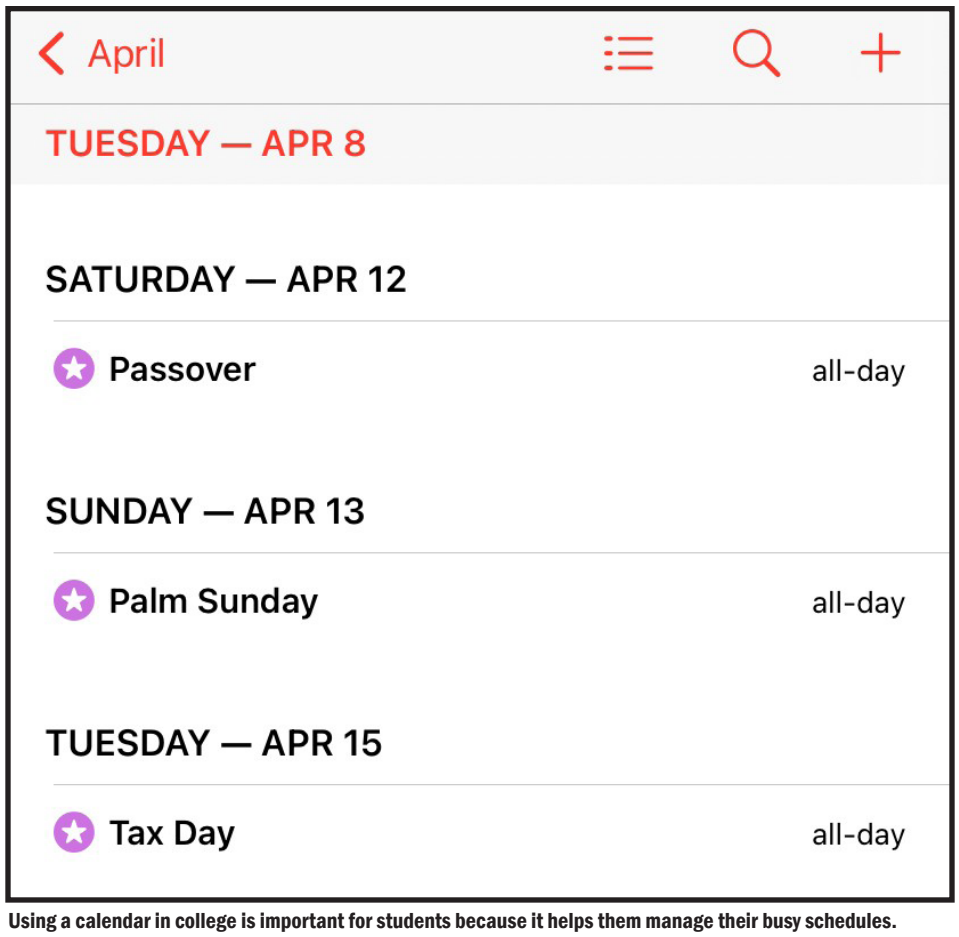
A science class can help students see the environment differently and learn how animals or cells reproduce.

Art or literature can help students decide what hobbies and personal projects they want to pursue. Students who apply what they learn in school to real-life situations are students who see how education has practical benefits.

Overall, it is a good thing to learn from outside the classroom as important as lessons taught in school. As mentioned earlier, time management, communication, problem-solving, cultural awareness, and personal growth are critical to gain through life experiences.

Each lesson prepares students for the complexities of life and helps them grow into well-rounded individuals. Education does not end when school day ends, which continues in our world.

By stepping outside, students can connect with the world, develop new abilities, and gain experiences that strengthen their overall life skills in ways that indoor environments often can't provide. (Photo by Sayuri Vargas-Hernandez)



Using a calendar in college is important for students because it helps them manage their busy schedules. College life includes classes, assignments, exams, social events, and sometimes work or internships. (Photo by Sayuri Vargas Hernandez)

Beyond the cap and gown: The etiquette and legacy of graduation ceremonies

Brooke Brinker
Staff Writer

Graduating students, your Graduation is coming soon! Graduation is such a special moment and a huge accomplishment that you have completed.

But, before you attend, it is important to have knowledge of what to do, what to wear, and the history behind graduation before you cross that stage!

First, make sure you are wearing the correct formal attire. For the women, wear formal dresses, skirts, blouses, with dress pants, and dress shoes. For men, dress shirts, formal pants, and dress shoes. Dress your very best!

Mary M cCoy, from the marketing team, gives good advice on the matter, “Wear comfortable shoes and wear nice clothing! This is a special event, and these are memories that graduates will have for a lifetime.”

Next, you need to be on time! You should be there earlier than the scheduled time; that way, you can prepare, take pictures, and find a seat.

You don't want to rush in late and make a scene. You also don't want to miss your college graduation. It is a big moment worth celebrating.

During graduation, you will feel excited, anxious, and ready for your big moment. But it is important not to talk to others around you, instead, listen to the speeches, and be polite. Stay in your seat and listen to instructions on what to do.

As you walk the stage, smile and be you! Don't do anything that is disrespectful as you cross that stage. Shake hands, get your diploma, and add a wave, a joyful expression, or anything that expresses who you are.

As graduation is over, walk over to your loved ones, make sure to thank everyone for coming. You can also take pictures with your graduating friends and your family.

Have you wondered where graduation traditions come from or how they started? The cap you will wear is inspired from “biretta”, which is a square cap, with three projections on the top. It is also called the mortarboard. Back in the 14 and 15 centuries, only masters and doctorate degrees wore the cap, but now every graduate does!

The gown started in the twelfth century when graduates wore it because they wanted to be warm since the university had poor heating at the time.

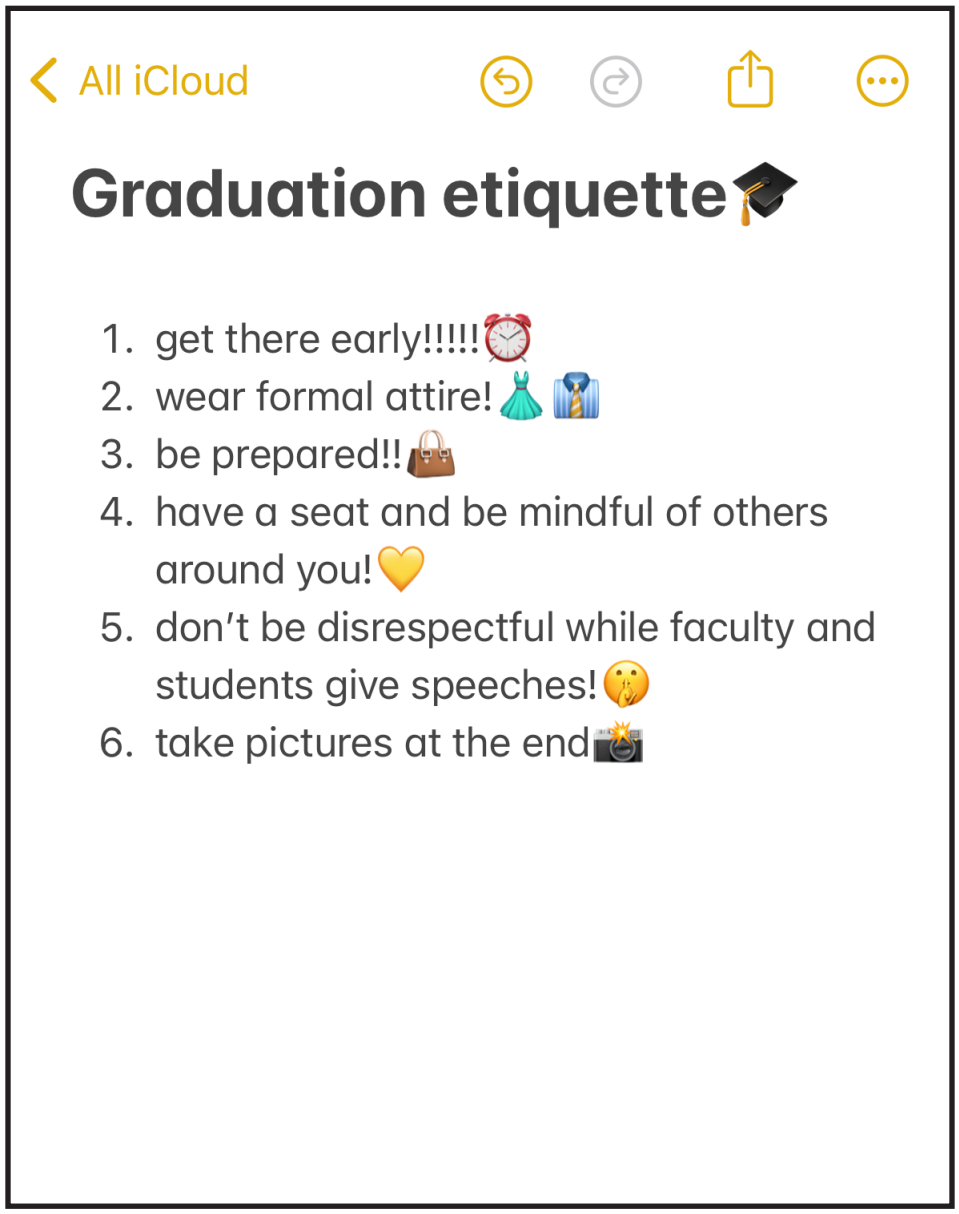
Another tradition is involving the tassel.

According to the website homeschooldiploma.com, “moving the tassel from the right side to the left symbolizes the movement from being a candidate of a degree to a recipient of the degree.”

In our generation and society, we celebrate many things and value many traditions and sometimes we don't even know why we do it or where those traditions came from. So, it is cool to learn and remember why we celebrate college graduation the way we do.

College Graduation is a special occasion.

One, you will look back and reminisce. Graduation deserves respect and honor. So, dressing in formal attire and understanding the traditions of this celebration is another way of acknowledging the significance of this important milestone.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Graduation etiquette🎓
1. get there early!!!!!⏰
2. wear formal attire!👗👔
3. be prepared!!👜
4. have a seat and be mindful of others around you!💛
5. don’t be disrespectful while faculty and students give speeches!🤫
6. take pictures at the end📸

Having a notes reminder of the etiquette rules will help you be polite and remember certain rules at graduation. (Photo by Brooke Brinker)

After you walk that stage and you are dismissed, take pictures with your family and friends so you can always remember this special day. (Photo by Sherilyn Craig)

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Staying grounded after Graduation

Emily Hernandez Dominguez
Managing Editor

As the calendar turns to April, university seniors across the country are beginning to see the finish line of one of the most significant chapters in their lives.

Cap and gown deliveries have begun, photographers are being booked for senior portraits, and planners are marked with a bright highlight over one of the most anticipated words of the year: "GRADUATION."

With that growing sense of excitement comes an undercurrent of anxiety and uncertainty.

Beneath the celebration lies the quiet question that echoes in many seniors' minds: "What's next?" The symbolic turn of the tassel doesn't just represent the end of college, it signals the start of a brand-new chapter, filled with unknowns.

For many, this transition is exhilarating. After years of hard work, long nights, and countless cups of coffee, they're eager to chase their dreams. But for others, the future feels overwhelming. Some are still figuring out what they want to do. Some are worried about finding a job in their field. Some are simply trying to take it all in—one step at a time.

"I was very anxious about life after university," says Nicholae Robinson, a 2024 graduate of Saint Leo University. "I love planning ahead and life after university was not as straightforward. I had no idea what I wanted to do."

Life after college graduation is, in many ways, more intimidating than life after high school. High school seniors often have a structured path ahead: college, a technical program or job training, with guidance from counselors, family, and their school.

But the post-college world doesn't come with a roadmap. There are no set schedules, no clearly marked assignments. Just a blank page and the challenge of filling it in. The journey ahead looks different for everyone, and that's part of what makes it both exciting and terrifying.

"I was definitely nervous, but also very excited for the future. I couldn't wait to take what I learned in college and be able to apply it towards a career," said Alicia Sillen, a Saint Leo alum from the Class of 2024 "Change is always nerve wracking, but I always try to see it as an opportunity to experience something new!"

Stress is a common experience for many college seniors, and job prospects and job security are among the top concerns. Florida had 503,000 job openings in Jan. 2025, up from 464,000 in Dec., according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Still, many students may find it difficult to locate openings tailored to their field or interests.

The Class of 2025 is also navigating a unique set of challenges that previous graduates may not have faced.

One of the most pressing is the rapid advancement of artificial intelligence. As AI technology continues to evolve, some students worry that their future roles could be replaced or significantly altered.

However, Sillen, offers a different perspective. Rather than fearing AI, she sees it as a powerful and resourceful tool that can support her career goals.

"AI shouldn't be something people are afraid will replace jobs, it's actually a very useful tool to assist you at your job," Sillen states. "A professor at SLU made a great comparison: when the computer was introduced, everyone thought they would replace secretaries' jobs. But that job was replaced with people who knew how to USE computers."

As seniors, it's easy to get caught up in the stress of passing classes, preparing for graduation, and thinking about what comes next. But before diving too far into the future, take a moment to soak it all in.

Before you know it, you won't be walking to class, enjoying the view of the lake, or catching up with friends at Benedict's between lectures. Let yourself be present. Celebrate the journey and the accomplishments that brought you to this moment—you've earned it.

If you're a junior or underclassman reading this, know that graduation day will come faster than you think. Now is the perfect time to start preparing for life after college—mentally, emotionally, and practically. One way to do this is by creating a vision board or a simple guide for what you hope your post-grad life will look like.

The key? Don't make a rigid plan. Life is unpredictable, and if things don't unfold exactly how you imagined, you might end up feeling more stressed and overwhelmed. Instead, create something flexible and uplifting.

Your vision can include anything from planning a fun trip, taking a beach day, or spending more time with friends and family, to applying for internships or exploring job opportunities. Give yourself something to look forward to.

"My main advice is to utilize your friends/connections for professional or personal support because this transitional period is when you will need it the most," Rowe explains.

With graduation just weeks away, now is the time to pause and breathe. Let these final moments as a Saint Leo senior really sink in. Go to those campus events, take the long way to class, and hug your friends a little tighter. Don't forget to take advantage of your student discount while you still can!

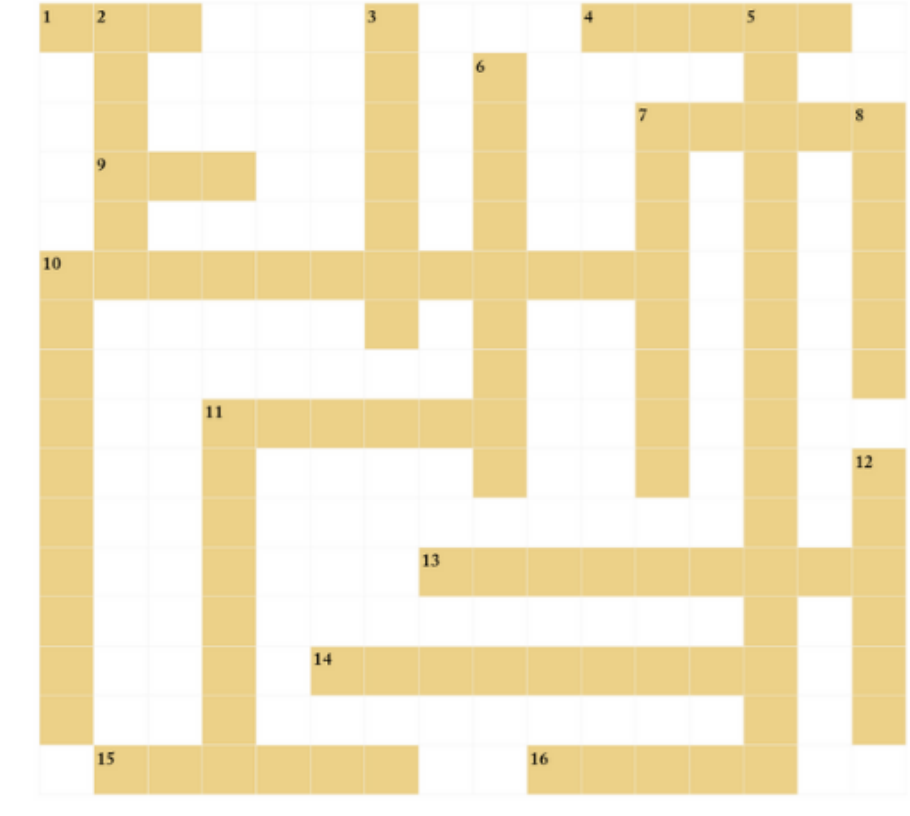
Remember: once a Lion, always a Lion. Each one of you is a light in this world. Be proud of who you are, how far you've come, and the person you're becoming.

Enjoy each moment on campus, as one day you'll no longer pass by the giant lion on your walk to class—cherish these little memories while you can. (Photo by Emily Hernandez Dominguez)

Before becoming alumni, take the opportunity to show school spirit and support by attending games and cheering on the school's sports teams. (Photo by Emily Hernandez Dominguez)

Saint Leo University

Certificate of Graduation



Across

1 A brief exclamation of joy
4 The name of the Leo lion
7 Regalia ropes hung around the neck, plural
9 The month in which graduation occurs
10 Pomp and ____ ; The graduation song
11 The older version of junior
13 "Wow, you have a really firm ____!"
14 The kind of party you have before receiving your degree?
15 Hip hip!
16 The color typically worn under graduation robes

Down

2 What you become after graduation
3 The part of graduation that is airborne?
5 The action upon one's head that signifies graduating
6 What you need from the president or dean on your diploma ; also known as a John Hancock
7 Also known as commencement
8 Drape this around your shoulders signifying achievements and affiliations, plural
10 Proper graduation attire combo
11 Where you are graduating from
12 Before walking the stage, sit and listen to the welcoming ____

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Polina Zadirey

As my time with *The Lions' Pride Media Group* comes to an end, I want to express my gratitude for the incredible experiences and opportunities I have had.

Being part of this team has allowed me to grow, learn, and collaborate with amazing individuals.

Thank you to everyone who made this journey so special—I will always carry these memories with me!

Adrianna Astudillo

Being an intern with The Lions' Pride Media Group this spring semester has been an absolute blast—I only wish I had joined sooner! Even though I've only written a few articles for Arts & Culture and Campus News, the experience has been enriching. Interacting with students, gathering feedback, and observing campus life from a new perspective made every piece I wrote so much fun. Thank you to all the editors, the editor-in-chief, and Dr. Kasper, who made this experience so special—I'll truly miss it. And to anyone considering joining, do it!

BAO HAN

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I still vividly remember the day I walked up to then-editor-in-chief Alora to introduce myself and learn how to join the paper. I remember attending meetings, writing my first intro article—which was way too long—and feeling really nervous, not knowing what to expect.

What I ended up gaining was experience that can't be learned in a classroom—the ability to talk to new people, attend and cover fun events, develop a strong sense of school pride, and, most importantly, form friendships with the staff.

These last couple of years on the paper have flown by, and I am so grateful for every person who has shaped me into who I am today. I especially want to thank Dr. Kasper for her leadership and the time she dedicated to helping me.

While I'm sad that my time with the paper has come to an end, I am eternally thankful for all the memories made and hope that future generations leave just as inspired and touched as I am.

Congrats, Class of 2025!

TH THE LIONS' PRIDE
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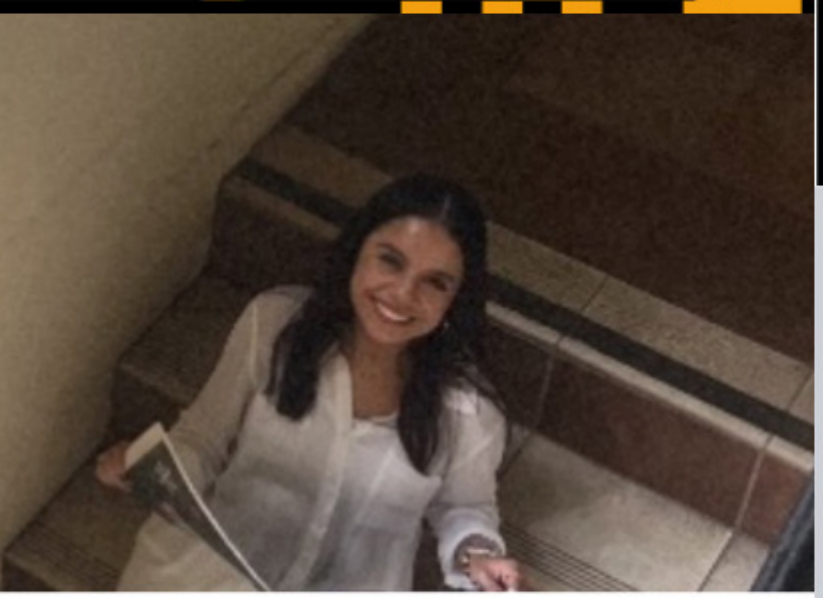


Emily Dominguez

I HAVE ONLY SPENT ONE YEAR WORKING AS AN INTERN AND THEN LATER VOLUNTEER WITH THE LIONS' PRIDE MEDIA GROUP, BUT I HAVE HAD SUCH AN INCREDIBLE TIME!

THE ENVIRONMENT IS EXTREMELY POSITIVE WITH COWORKERS BOUNCING OFF IDEAS WITH ONE ANOTHER AND SUPPORTING EACH OTHER'S ENDEAVORS.

I FEEL LIKE I HAVE GAINED EXCELLENT INSIGHT INTO WHAT THE JOURNALISM WORLD ENTAILS, AND I CANNOT BE MORE THANKFUL TO DR. VALERIE KASPER AND SOPHIA SULLIVAN FOR TAKING ME ONBOARD AND GUIDING ME.

I WILL MISS THE LIONS' PRIDE MEDIA GROUP A LOT AND I HOPE TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH THIS AMAZING COMMUNITY!

MAEVE KILEY

SARAH

MCMINN

BEING A STAFF WRITER FOR THE LION'S PRIDE HAS TRULY BEEN A BLESSING. I HAVE DISCOVERED MY LOVE FOR WRITING AND HAVE ENJOYED SO MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO CHANNEL THIS PASSION.

ALTHOUGH MY TIME HERE HAS COME TO AN END, THE LESSONS I HAVE LEARNED AND MY LOVE FOR WRITING WILL STAY WITH ME FOREVER AND INTO MY NEXT CHAPTER OF LIFE.

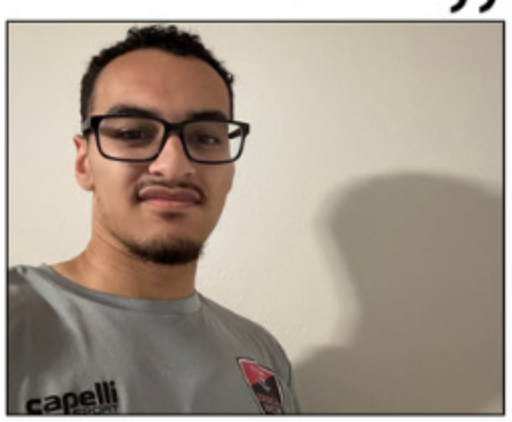
I AM INCREDIBLY GRATEFUL FOR THIS EXPERIENCE AND EVERYONE THAT HAS BEEN A PART OF IT

Cameron Castelli

The opportunity to be a copyeditor has been fulfilling and I will certainly miss the work and my team. I am thankful for all I have learned here as I enter grad school this June to begin my doctoral studies in Occupational Therapy.

JULIEN BERNARD

"I DIDN'T STAY FOR LONG, BUT I ENJOYED CONTRIBUTING TO THE LIONS PRIDE AND MEETING NEW PEOPLE ALONG THE WAY!"



Dr. Keith Jones: The Lego professor

Sanjea Taylor
Contributing Writer

Dr. Keith Jones, an associate professor of marketing, in his office filled with pictures of his family and various Lego creations he built. (Photo was taken by Sanjea Taylor)

Dr. Keith C. Jones, an associate professor of marketing, utilizes his class time to engage his students in Lego-playing activities.

Jones, in his Principles of Marketing class, teaches his students by using Legos to assist him. Students get to build with Legos in his classes while learning more about marketing, along with various topics like marketing strategies, promotional tactics, and more.

Jones does this because Lego is currently the No. 1 toy manufacturer in the world– and they've held this position for nearly five years.

"If you study the company and look at what it's doing, you can see unbelievable marketing programs in place, so Legos must be doing something correct in the marketing world to be that successful," Jones said.

Therefore, he brings Legos into the classroom to help students understand why the company is so successful, what it is doing, and how it is growing.

However, Lego was not always part of Jones' lesson plan for this class. He initially brought in live clients instead.

"The problem with a [MKT] 301 class is the students don't have the knowledge base yet to work with a live client. I've tried it and it didn't work," said Jones, as he remembers a time before introducing the iconic toy into his classroom.

He made the change to using Legos in his classroom during a redesign of the Principles of Marketing course, just before the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I wanted to do something that was fun and different and maybe bring some interest into the students," said Jones.

He already had a love for Legos, so he added them to his lesson plan for his Principles of Marketing class.

Although his love for Legos did not begin in his early years, his passion for the toy developed over time.

"As a farm kid, I couldn't afford Legos," Jones said. However, he noted that there were other things he could use that were similar to Legos.

"The big toys were Lincoln Logs and building blocks, and so it was an easy transition," he said.

Jones didn't become interested in Legos until he had his own children, and he bought Lego kits for them. Now, his office is filled with various Lego builds and toys.

With his passion for Legos, Jones decided they were the right product to introduce to the classroom.

"Legos are easy to use in the classroom. They're easy to transport. They're readily available," Jones said. "Legos, from an application perspective, especially, being able to tie it to Saint Leo, was the place that made the most sense."

However, Jones ponders whether Legos have been productive in his classroom and whether his bold plan actually worked.

"I don't know if there's a lot of response about learning marketing, but [the students] get excited about being able to play with Legos," Jones said. "In fact, when I'm moving the Legos into classrooms, students sitting in the hallways ask 'Oh, Legos. Where do you use those? What do you teach?'"

Jones said the attraction to the Legos is more appealing than the subject matter being taught.

"But I'm hoping that, through that interest of Legos, they will learn a little bit more about marketing," Jones said.

Roberto Odor, a communications major, agrees on the success of this tactic.

"It's not just about building Legos," said Odor. "It talks about how to sell, how to buy, how to persuade people to buy more, how to make a company, and that's all marketing."

Odor realizes the connection Legos make to marketing, allowing students to become interested in learning about the topic at hand. Using this tactic in the classroom has been successful for Jones.

Jones hopes to continue constructing memories with Legos as he looks toward retirement next year.

"I live by the adage, family first," said Jones as he thinks about his future goals. Now, he looks forward to retiring and enjoying his family, spending time with his grandkids, and playing Legos with them.

"I buy them Legos all the time," said Jones.

Start your summer off right: Tropical Heatwave Music Festival

A sponsored article by Polina Zadirey
Advertising Manager

The school year's finally over, and it's time to unwind and enjoy yourself. What better way to kick things off than with something unforgettable? Don't miss WMNF 88.5 FM's annual Tropical Heatwave Music Festival!

WMNF, a listener-supported, volunteer-powered media center based in Tampa, is dedicated to building a more informed, connected, and compassionate community through music discovery and open dialogue. The station offers 24/7 human-curated content — free from algorithms and corporate influence — and stays true to its community-first mission, spotlighting authentic voices and DJs who genuinely connect with their listeners.

So how did the Tropical Heatwave Music Festival begin? It all started inside a small radio station with a simple idea: What if we threw a party as diverse and vibrant as our programming? That spark grew into one of Tampa Bay's most anticipated annual traditions.

"Tropical Heatwave has been our annual love letter to music, to Ybor City, and to you, our community," WMNF says. "It's weathered storms, rode waves of change, and always emerged stronger. More than just a festival, it's the living, breathing spirit of WMNF — diverse, fearless, and always in tune with the heartbeat of Tampa Bay."

As the event grows each year, so does its musical variety. This year's lineup spans rock, blues, funk, R&B and Latin, with performances by artists such as Chuck Prophet and His Cumbia Shoes, GA-20, Cheo, Sue Foley, Zach Person, Skating Polly, and more.

And if you think that's all — think again. The festival also includes food from local food trucks, a variety of art vendors, a full bar, free water refill stations, and an exclusive chance to hear directly from the artists during post-show interviews.

Even better, while standard tickets are $50, students get 50% off with the promo code THWSTUDENT50 — making the festival both fun and affordable.

If you're looking for something exciting close to home — packed with great music and summer vibes — don't miss your chance to make memories with friends at WMNF 88.5 FM's annual Tropical Heatwave Music Festival, happening May 10 at the Cuban Club.

For tickets and more information, visit: https://www.wmnf.org/wmnf-events/tropical-heatwave-2025/

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Navigating job trends in 2025: What graduates need to know

Hosanna Asfaw
Contributing Writer

Graduation season is upon us. You might be thinking: "All that money spent on school has to be worth it. I need to find a job—but will I? Am I even ready? I don't feel qualified. What can I do to make this easier?" These questions are likely racing through your mind as you prepare to take your next step.

According to the New Jersey Business & Industry Association, 72 percent of all jobs will require postsecondary education or training by 2031. Of those, 42 percent will require at least a bachelor's degree.

While demand for tech roles—such as data scientists, software developers, and IT specialists—continues to rise, fields like healthcare, law, finance, and accounting remain strong. Even in non-tech industries, employers increasingly value digital literacy and leadership skills, especially in project management and consulting.

Additionally, cross-sector overlap is also creating new opportunities, with data science playing a growing role in both medicine and business.

So, what are the best jobs in the United States?

There's no one-size-fits-all career, but the most rewarding roles often share a few key qualities: competitive salaries, meaningful challenges, opportunities for advancement, manageable stress levels, and a healthy work-life balance.

According to U.S. News & World Report, while the highest-paying jobs include CEOs, medical specialists, nurse anesthetists, and pilots—each earning an average salary of more than $200,000—the top 10 best jobs in the United States that require a bachelor's degree, ranked from lowest to highest, are: pilot, financial advisor, marketing manager, actuary, data scientist, medical and health services manager, information security analyst, software developer, financial manager, and IT manager.

Understanding how your degree aligns with the evolving job market is crucial. For specialized degrees like accounting, the career path—such as becoming an accountant or auditor—is straightforward.

In contrast, broader, interdisciplinary degrees—like international studies or medical humanities—span multiple sectors, making job opportunities less defined. This is where adaptability and curiosity become essential. Your diverse background can be an asset in industries where skills overlap, opening doors to unexpected, yet fulfilling, career paths.

Interestingly, even in the age of artificial intelligence (AI), many experts agree that, at present, AI is not ready to replace jobs but rather to complement them.

According to research from Georgetown University, technology has increased the number of jobs, and this trend is expected to continue. Even in the context of job automation, it's likely that only certain aspects of jobs will be automated, not entire roles. Therefore, technology may replace tasks in jobs, but not the occupations as a whole.

Positions that don't require a degree, such as truck drivers and retail sales, remain in demand. However, as AI develops and more individuals earn degrees, standing out in the job market becomes increasingly competitive. This is why developing both hard and soft skills is crucial.

While AI can automate tasks, it still lacks genuine emotional intelligence, ethical reasoning, and the ability to build meaningful relationships. To stay competitive among other graduates, pursuing certifications that demonstrate technical expertise—such as the PMP for project management or the CFA for finance—can make you a stronger candidate.

An emerging trend is that many professionals find themselves working in fields completely unrelated to their degrees, yet still experience career satisfaction, new challenges, and good compensation.

For example, individuals with a background in public health may transition into development or international relations roles. Employers recognize this flexibility, and as a result, job descriptions often indicate openness to candidates with diverse educational backgrounds.

Particularly in humanities, management, consulting, and human resources, employers look for candidates who are teachable, hard-working, and determined enough to initiate and complete tasks successfully. They value the critical thinking, communication, and analytical skills that graduates bring.

Career-building is not always linear. You may discover a new passion or opportunity at any point that reshapes your professional path. Soft skills are transferable across industries, and they will always be valuable, no matter where your journey takes you.

Key takeaways for career success from Saint Leo University professors Dr. Kelly Atkins, Dr. Dean Passard, Dr. Karen Hannel, Dr. Okey Azu Igbonagwam, and Ms. Katrina Weicht include:

1. **Be competent.** Be qualified. Let your work speak for itself, and earn certifications if needed.
2. **Practice lifelong learning**. Stay current by developing technical skills, and pay attention to how AI is being integrated into the workplace.
3. **Advocate for yourself.** Don't let imposter syndrome hold you back. Everyone has to start somewhere.
4. **Focus on soft skills.** Leadership, communication, and teamwork remain essential across all industries.
5. **Networking matters.** Build relationships now—you'll be able to lean on them in the future.
6. **Embrace challenges as opportunities.** Stay confident, seize chances, and build connections. They might open doors you never expected.

The unknown can be nerve-wracking. Many of us are eager to see the outcomes of our efforts, and we often hope life will unfold according to a perfect plan—each milestone achieved on schedule. But life rarely goes exactly as expected. It throws curveballs, setbacks, and surprises.

Adapt, move forward, and when you fail (because let's face it, we all do), pick yourself up. Look to your mentors and community for support, reflect on what you've learned, and rebuild yourself stronger.

To all graduates: Congrats! No matter what comes next, stay excited and keep pushing forward.

Several websites can assist with the job search process, including Indeed, Handshake, and LinkedIn. (Photo was taken by Hosanna Asfaw)

Turning the tassel: Why you shouldn't skip your graduation day

Brianna Brinker
Staff Writer

Your college graduation day usually comes just once in a lifetime. It's the day you've imagined ever since you first stepped onto campus. It's the reason you chose to pursue a degree—to reach that milestone. Graduation Day is the moment that reflects your major achievement.

It's a day to take pride in your journey. A day that highlights all the steps you took and the skills you developed to reach where you are today.

So why skip a day that's dedicated to celebrating your success?

A graduation ceremony isn't just about recognizing your accomplishments and the hard work you put into earning your degree; it's also a time to share with the friends you've made and the people who have impacted your life along the way.

This day should be about you—a moment for reflection and a beautiful memory to keep with you forever. Walking across that stage marks the end of one chapter and the exciting start of the next.

If you're tempted to skip this important day and just have your diploma mailed to you, consider what you'll be missing.

If you think it's not worth attending, do it anyway—for yourself.

We all deserve to be proud of ourselves, and walking across the stage gives you the chance to not only show others, but also show yourself that you did it.

"Attending your college graduation is a milestone moment. It's a chance to show off your hard work to peers and your family and celebrate your accomplishments," said Maddie Melendez, a senior majoring in criminal justice with a homeland security specialization.

Graduation day also serves as a tribute to those who sacrificed and supported us along the way.

"As someone who is a first-generation college student, I will be attending my graduation and giving thanks to my mother who helped me get here and showed me the importance of gaining an education," said Melendez.

Get excited for this day. Pick out a special outfit, plan your hairstyle, and send out invitations to your closest friends and family. Make the decision to celebrate you.

If you go, you won't miss a thing. But if you don't, you might spend the rest of your life wishing you had.

It's the last chance to create a college memory, so gather with your closest friends and make this moment count.

Graduation day marks an incredible accomplishment you've achieved. (Photo was provided by Sherilyn Craig)

Turning the tassel: Is the graduation ceremony really worth it?

Josie Osborne
Campus News Editor

May 7, 2025 is the day Saint Leo University seniors have been waiting for throughout their college careers. It's a day of goodbyes, celebration, and accomplishment—graduation.

As seniors begin their preparations and eagerly finish their finals, one question comes to mind: is the ceremony really worth it?

With invitations and envelopes, ordering a cap and gown can cost nearly $200, not including the mandatory $145 Graduation Application Fee (which you must pay even if you don't attend the ceremony). With these necessities alone, seniors are facing an almost $345 expense, on top of any tuition or loans they're still working to pay off. This doesn't include the additional costs of a dress or tuxedo for under the gown, or the expenses for family and friends who wish to attend.

Senior English major Kore Ramos shared why she doesn't wish to attend the ceremony this spring.

"Other than personal opinions, I feel that I don't want to go to the graduation ceremony because of the extra fees. The expenses fall on me, and it's difficult to find expendable money," she explains. "Though, I'm going to the graduation for my parents. I'm the only one out of my three other siblings who went to university and is graduating. So, I feel a duty to give them this moment to feel pride."

For some students, this day is everything they've dreamed of since high school, but for others, it's just another steppingstone. Seniors who plan to attend graduate school or continue their education after earning their bachelor's degree may view the ceremony as an unnecessary hassle—a roadblock in the grander scheme of things.

This is not a high school graduation, where you are surrounded by friends you've known since childhood. It's a ceremony with over 1,000 students—people you may have never met—and professors who have never taught you. It's not as intimate or special for many. Even though Saint Leo University is a smaller school, it's still easy to get lost in the crowd of soon-to-be alumni.

So, consider celebrating in your own way this year, with those closest to you, and in a manner that's best for both your wallet and mental health.

Why add extra pressure when you already have finals? It may be a once-in-a-lifetime moment for some, but not for everyone.

It's a day that offers the final moment where all your friends are gathered in one place at the same time. (Photo was provided by Sherilyn Craig)

The Lions' Pride Media Group

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Saint Leo University 2025 Graduates

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Jenny Armstrong
Rebecca Baeten
Courtney Benito
Viennessee Black
Prince Blue
Allison Boening
LaPorsha Bolden
Melissa Boschwitz
Angela Brownburchett
Tonya Cabello
Kurt Caminske
Elizabeth Campbell
Christian Carlson
Michael Cavett
Robert Chapa
Sadia Corral Benkhalek
James Crosby
Antonio Cruz
Jonathan Davis
Asante Dean
Heather Depete
Leah Dix-Nelson
Jessie Dorsey
Sherika Duncan
Cassandra Ellson
Jarrell Franklin
Matthew Frederick
Trent Goode
Nicole Hagler
Shawn Hamil
Pamela Hill-Nolan
Tierra Holt
True Holt
James Hudgens
Lakita Hutchinson
Ashley Ingraham
Timothy James
Ashley Jeffcoat
Sabrina Jeter
Evinery Jimenez
Victoria Kidd
Naomi Killian
Kosean Kokeh
Kelly Kraynak
Joseph Martell
Antoinette McBurney
Allison Merkel
Jessica Milford
Janine Moreno
John Morris
Angela Nguyen
Solomon Oshowole
Patrick Phinizee
Catherine Quade
Edward Restrepo
Markeeta Robinson
Saima Sanaullah
Kelvin Santos
Julie Smith
Mariah Smith
Mary Soliva
Jessica Stoneback
Lyda Tesauro
Vincent Tesla
Wendy Thompson
Hope Tillman-Sparrow
Michele Toscani
Edward Twyford
Na'shara Tyson
Deanna Williams-Smith
Vonshay Woodson
Javier Yépez Vargas

Education Specialist Degrees

Maydine Alcid-Digsby
Tyfanie Colberg Montalvo
Meachell Green-Randolph
Frances Hadley
Deanna Wakely

Master's Degrees

Brianna Adams
Prasanna Addanki
Radeja Addison
Carlene Ahoon
Sai Pavan Ajmira
Akosua Akyeampong
Shamu Alakanti
Denise Alexander-Falconer
Marissa Allen
Raleigh Allen
Diana Allison
Bhargavi Allu
Jamie Alonso
Nadine Alphonse
Yashwanth Amgoth
Hector Amortegui
Sai Kumar Anchuri
Rosmelynn Angelakopoulos
Kelsey Anhalt
Sai Harshitha Annam
Sai Anugu
Shelia Apple
Jacob Argoncillo
Marco Humberto Arias
Nomin Ariunbold
Ashley Arthur
Jaspreet Aulakh
Douglas Ayala
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Joseph Barnes
James Barrows
Ana Barton
Manoj Basani
Uyanga Bat-Erdene
Rashida Bell
Veronica Bell
Kenny Benton
Julio Antonio Berdeja
Latoya Berger
Huber de Jesus Berrio
Rana Veer Bharattej R
Aditya Bhatt
Elizabeth Blansit
Chandra Blount
Vivian Boadi
Laura Bobitz
Rakesh Bogadhi
Ravikanth Bollaram
Matthew Bolton
William Bonner
Christy Bortmes
Raymah Brackett
Darshan Brahmbhatt
Isabella Brandine
Annie Brandl
Evan Brayman
Carlton Brimm
Spencer Bronner
Shakiah Broughton
Abena Brown
Michele Brown
Sonia Brown
Richard Bryan
Kazen Burke
Quinn Butler
Brandon Cadenas
Adriana Canchola Gonzalez
Joseph Carandang
Maria Cardo
Elizabeth Carrasquillo
Juan Carrillo
Cara Carter
Bhargavi Chaganti
Bryan Chappell
Chandrahas Reddy Charabudla
Kalyan Sagar Chavala
Sandeep Chavva
Mahesh Chilukuri
Chaitanya Chimata
Nikhil Chowdary Yetukuri
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Maria Collins
Quineise Cook
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Eric Defelice
Gina DiBattista
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Grace Figueroa Rodriguez
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Naija Fuller
Bindu Gadipally
Sharath Kumar Gadivemula
Joshua Gallop
Bhargav Gande
Mahesh Ganneboina
Sandra Garcia
Jnani Gardner
Nathan Gardner
Shelley Gardner
Charity Gaskin
Merwin Geancarlo Teran
Fay Geiger
Casey Giddens
Rakisha Gilmore Walker
Yasmin Godfrey
Venkata Gogineni
Gauravsinh Gohil
Saikrishna Golla
Vamsi Gonuguntla
Derrick Graham
Keiana Granison
Tiffany Grant
Karen Gray
Shiela Gray-Nason
Angel Griffin
Karthik Kumar Gudi
Vishnuvardhan Gudivada VinayakaNaidu
Sowdhamini Gunaganti
Srikanth Gurajala
Prashanth Gyara
Lavin Hadley
Tracie Halbrook
Heather Hall
Raqeeb Hall
Fatou Hamdouni
Hamida Hamidy
Chantell Hardy
Michele Harper
Terrence Hartwell
Amy Hashman
Danielle Hatcher
Kathleen Helgemo
Logan Hemphill
Rohane Hendrickson
Nihaal Herial
Michelle Hernandez
Rachel Hernandez
Brady Hernando
Andres Higuera
Amelia Hill
Tiffany Hines
Amanda Ho
Valarie Holly
Paige Holt
Yaminah Holt
Vanessa Hossler
Sydney Hostetler
Misty Hoyland
Erin Hudson
Monique Hudson
Christopher Hulse
Janai Hunter
Jermaine Hutchinson
Helen Huynh
Stephanie Ilich
Sai Teja Iloni
Edith Jaimes Hernandez
Lloyd James
Venkateswar Rao Jarabana
Samuel Jayakumar
Sandeepreddy Jilkapalli
Sairam Jilkapally
Jody Jnobaptiste
Brittnye Johnson
Mia-Llachelle Johnson
Tara Johnson
Darryl Jones
Marcus Jones
Shane Jones
Mounika Juluri
Sai Teja Kadivendi
Anisha Kandakatla
Susruth Kandakatla
Shresta Kandukuri
Sai Naga Lokesh Kareti
Tejaswi Karre
Kodanda Karri
Punnaiah Kasula
Emily Katz
Allyson Ketchum
Darielle Kilcrease
McKenna Kincaid
Tamira Kinsey
Srinija Kodam
Yedukondalu Kona
Vamsi Sai Kondapi
Sarah-Anna Kosko
Madeline Kouten
Jason Krajewski
Danielle Kyea
Jo-Ann LaClair
Alexandra Lajara
Sofyan Lakdim
Ruby Lamas
Jennifer Lamons
Kristina Lampkin
Demetria Largie
Victoria Latalladi
Zuchitty Lavandera
Yang Lee
Abigail Lehman
Jatadhara Lingala
Navya Sai Lingampally
Chaitanya Lingineni
Abrar Lnu
Walter Lora
Jose Luis Malpartida
Pralakxavier Madanu
Jasmine Madison
Ashlee Maduro
Himaniben Maheta
Srinivas Malapati
Kiara Maldonado
Saisiddarth Mallu
Gopi Mandapati
Elannie Mangual
Ashritha Manne
Sharath Manthri
Toya Marangelli
Alexandra Maritza Sanchez
Nelson Marreromonserrate
Amanda Martin
Baylie Martin
Duon Martin
Marie Martin
Renisa Martinez
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Gustavo Mastarreno
Isaiah Mathias
Izabella Mathis
Barry McCarter
Chanel McCray
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Shannon McDonald
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Ryan McPherson
Gabrielle McSwain
Surendra Reddy Medapati
Vanessa Mejia
Ronniel Mercado
Emily Meredith
Lester Carlos Meza
Adeel Mikael
Shanesia Minter
Courtney Mitchell
Jashwitha Mogili
Riyaz Mohammad
Gillian Moll
Shenicka Monroe
Ashlea Moore
Princess Moore
Shirlteya Moore
Fey Morales Martinez
Yolanda Mozone
Someshwari Mukhara Srinivaslu
David Muldrow
Angelus Myers
Donthu Naga Jagabattula
Arnold Nagarapu
Simmon Nagarapu
Yassine Nahhal
Anandhan Naidoo
Douglas Alejandro Najera
Vijay Nalimela
Akash Nalla
Revanth Kumar Nallamothu
Sai Kiran Namireddy
Mounika Naraharisetty
Sowjanya Narapogu
Sai Kumar Nayini
Quinton Nedd
Jacqueline Nedd-Griffith
Briannah Nemetz
Krina Nitin Christian
Ronisha Nutt
Lisa Ochoa
Rohith Odela
Eric Olsen
Carlos Ortiz
Michael Ortiz
Pranay Orugonda
Alan Owen
Shanesha Owens
Yogesh Pabbisetti
Jeilah Pabon
Jose Pagan
Venkata Paila
Rahul Palli
Vivekanand Palli
Anuhya Pandramisu
Avinash Pandramisu
Kiran Kumar Pannala
Sahith Reddy Papagari
Rajashekhar Papireddy
Yashaswini Pappala
Muthyala Parimala
Supriyagoud Parkala
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Shiva Pasula
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Riddhi Patel
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Jose David Pinchao
Mandy Pinckley
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Suresh Pitani
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Sri Teja Poodari
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Brendan Porter
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Seth Price
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Mary Richter
Nika Rios
Ricardo Rivas
Eddiel Rivera Salgado
Mary Roane
Amanda Robbins
Jillian Roberts
Maxine Roberts
Ashley Robinson
Tracy Robinson
Roberto Rodriguez
Francella Rojas Ramirez
Sonya Rollins
Erwin Roman Nieves
Bibia Rosario
Tyree Ross
Ashley Rosulek
Parameshwar Rotte
Pooja Sabbu
Jully Paola Sabogal
Rohith Sai Boda
Jasmine Salley
Jessica Sandoval
Srilakshmi Sappidi
Stephanie Schiwietz
Alexandra Schmidt
Marie Senat
Rene Serrano-Pacheco
Ameersohel Shaik
Reshma Shaik
Roshan Shaik
Brian Shey
Shontay Siders-Allen
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Shivananda Singireddy
Deepak Singla
Hardikkumar Sinhal
Mouad Siouda
Amanda Slozer
Chelsea Smith
Holly Smith
Jamila Smith
Julius Smith
Vivian Sola
Vanessa Solorzano
Jorge Sotomayor Perez
Teresa Spare
Jameelah Spence
Crystal Sportsman
Kyra Stauble
Sheila Stern
Brandie Stewart
Cynthia Stokes
Caitlin Strong
Dominque Summers
Briana Sutton
Travis Swanson
Rhoda Tanui
Tricia Taylor
Ravi Teja Adarasupally
Pavan Venkata Tellabati
Alexis Terry
Kiran Teja Thokala
Breanna Thomas
Kandyce Thomas
Karen Tillery
Shania Tillman
Gerardo Tinajero
Luca Tiozzo
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Sara Tourigny
Francesca Trimble
Delonjie Tyson
Lyudmyla Ustymenko
Jamie Vacante
Ashish Vadapally
Gopi Vadde
Sai Kiran Vangali
John Vaughn
Michael Vaughn
Savyasri Vazrala
Radheesh Veeravelly
Louidor Veillard
Andrew Vera Vega
Manuela Villa
Ariellee Villarini
Edneka Virgil
Aravind Vudatha
Zeel Vyas
Tarun Raj Vysyaraju
Jentoria Wade
Virginia Wagner
Brianna Waldeck
Jermaine Walker
Mario Wallace
Stefania Warren
Victoria Warren
Nehal Washington
Selena Washington
Sueleek Watkins
Taylor Watson
Sharon Weiss
Adrian White
Arica White
Brian Williams
Dian Williams
Kimberly Williams
Lieshia Williams
Carman Wilson
Jayvon Wilson
Melanie Wilson
Roderick Wilson
Heather Womersley
Breck Woods
Blaton Wright
Selena Wright
Stanika Wright
Srikanth Yadav Yarragorla
Jyoshna Yetukuri
Daylis Zamora
Regina Zeigler

Bachelor's Degrees

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Caleb Adams
Leda Adams
Jaiden Adderley
Christopher Adorno
Edgar Fabian Africano
Arron Agudelo
Tanvir Ahmed
Leanna Alcaide
Murphy Allard
Avery Allen
Makayla Allen
Nathanael Allen
Marlene Alonso
Meshaal Alqahtani
Nasser Al-Qahtani
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Valeria Arevalo
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Adrianna Astudillo
Andira Astwood
Iregy Jordana Avendano
Roseandre Avril
Amy Ayala
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Heather Baeza
Kadian Bagaloo
Dakota Bailey
Timothy Baker
Glenroy Baptiste
Ashley Barrineau
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Elizabeth Barwick
Talia Batts Vereen
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Chase Becker
Chantal Beckford
Kassidy Beinlich
Adarrin Bennett
Radricka Bennett
Malcolm Bentley
Angelique Benz
Michael Berg
Austin Bergensten
Julien Bernard
Michael Bernas
Denilya Berry
Ashley Besic
Brianna Bethea
Joseph Bettencourt
Hailey Beuerlein
Morgan Biggins
Vito Blacud
Kai Blanchard
Ashlie Bogart
Zachary Bogucki
Michael Bogush
Nakia Bonnet
Nicole Bordeaux
Gerquez Bosley
Mikel Bradley
Paulina Denisse Brajovic
Samantha Brantley
Isabella Brean
Ashanti Brockington
Dylan Broderick
Amy Brookins
Jayla Brooks
Pinky Brown
Alexandria Bryant
Mayah Bryant
Eoin Buckelew
Gisele Cristina Bueno
Briana Buie
Carson Bulger
Kiyanna Bumpus-White
James Bunn
Jason Burchfield
Jamison Burgess
Alexandria Burke
Ethan Burke
Kealyn Burns
Auja Bush
Enory Guiliana Bustamante
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Brandon Castillo
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Henry Celis
Darlene Ceron-Granjeno
Theodore Chace
Wiley Charles
Vincent Neil Checa
WREN Chretien
Autumn Church
William Church
Jason Cidras
Matthew Cintron
Ines Cisneros
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Lawrence Clark
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Jaia Cloud
Gabriel Cochran
Latifia Cockburn
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Koraima Cotto
Mia Cotton
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Sharika Craddock
Chloe Craig
Mica Crandall
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Wilfredo Davila
Dennis Davis
Emma Davis
Jakai Davis
Muhammad Davis
Sean Davis
Jamia Davis-Pounsel
Darlyn De Leon
Maria De Libero
Julia Decleene
Emma Dedmon
Alexis Deese
D'Jahir Delgado
Amelia Delisle
Katharina Dennington
Madison DePersia
Savanna DeTomaso
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Cameron Duncan
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Rayden Eggleston
Ahmed Elnoiemy
Arvis Embrey
Jake Embry
Martina Encomienda
Hope Epps
Eliza Espinal
Angel Evans
Linda Evans
Margaret Evans
Wesley Evans
Cynthia Eyo
Leslie Fabio
Anyeli Fana
William Farnand
Connor Farnham
Abria Farrish
Ahmud Ferguson
Stephanie Fernandez-Cruz
Heavenly Ferreira
Vincent Ferzacca
Jenise Fimbel
Gayleen Fisher
Ivett Flores
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Kyle Freudeman
Miles Fuca
Kendra Fuller Hornes
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Gabriela Garcia
Nicolas Garcia
Victor Garcia
Haley Gardner
Shamylia Garland
Kirstyn Garrett
Rekia Garrett
Chelsey Garvey
James Gatto
Miguel Gavilan
Daniel Geier
Summer George
Nialah Gibbs
Griffin Gibson
Mia Gibson
Ava Gindlesperger
Ashley Girgis
Makayla Goetz
Arian Gomez
Heather Gomez
Luis Gomez
Joseph Gonzalez
Luz Miryam Gonzalez
Victoria Gonzalez
Laney Gonzalez-Rico
Travis Graves
Emily Gray
Faith Gray
Tiffany Gray
Jasmine Green
Kyneisha Green
Ashly Greene
Tanya Grimes
Bridie Grimm
Asante Grundy
Angele Guerrier
Katelyn Guilamo
Sevana Gunn
Connor Haack
Elizabeth Hackenberg
Savannah Hadlock
Karin Haeggstroem
Kyle Hake
Alexandra Hall
Kelley Hamilton
Nateria Hamilton
Bao Han
Haidyn Hand
Tajuan Hanna
Helena Hanss
Hanna Hanulik
Latarsha Hardy
Tiffany Hardy
Nacole Harper
Darryl Harricharran
Savanna Harris
Shaona Harrison
Mathalene Hart
Anna Hartley
William Hartley
Samantha Hawkins
Tina Hayes
Emma Hayhurst
Antonishia Hendricks
Ashanai Henfield
Jude Henke
Mary Henley
Aneia Henry
Joann Henry
Miranda Henry
Angie Juliana Hernandez
Victoria Hernandez
Zahtwon Herron
Casteranne Hester
Eric Hester
McKenna Hickey
Kaylee Higgins
Tereka Hilton
Sierra Hines
Auja Hodges
Heather Hoffman
Juan Hoffman
Alicia Holbert
Aundrea Holiday
Shardae Holloway
Natavia Hooks
Robert Hoover
Brooke Hudson
Laila Huffman
Yajaira Hunt
Niyazbek Islamov
Shelbi Ivey
Elaina Jackson
Nephtalie Jacques
Arielle Jacus
Doynicia James
Elizabeth James
Rachel Jarrett
De'vagus Jenkins
Hailey Jenny
Alyssa Johler
Ale'Ya Johnson
Jaeden Johnson
Kaitlyn Johnson
Joseph Johnston
Dakotah Jones
Jasmin Jones
Tasha Jones
Braeden Jordan
Corbin Jordan
Vincente Kapusta
James Kelley
Khamila Kelsey
Nysja Kennerly
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Maeve Kiley
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Sierra King
Carissa Kintner
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Austin Kirkland
Katherine Kirkwood
Raeghan Klepczynski
Kenneth Klumb
Trinity Koch
Tyler Koelsch
Margaret Kotch
Liliana Kozlowski
Daria Krainova
Jeremy Kramper
Zachary Kroog
Mackenna Kunitzer
Michael Kurimsky
Christopher Kyser
Anabelle Lahens
John Lambert
Brendan Lampron
Gabriela Lancaster
Shadae Langley
Haleigh Larocca
La Toya Latimer
Chloe Layton
Virginia Anala Ledesma
Melinda Lemar
Sophia Leon-Tabor
Tiffany Leshko
Stephanie Leslie
Amelia Lester
Levi Leuck
Emoya Lewis
Evon Lewis
Alejandro Ley
Michael Libassi
Juan Pablo Libuy
Liliana Llanos Davila
Ayana Lopez
James Lowke
Heather Lucas
Maurice Lucas
Jennifer Lucatero
Grace Lundfelt
Hannah Lynn
Jessica Machado
Marquis Machado
Shane Macsuga
Tunisia Maine
Giovanna Mainella
Petera Major
Hassan Makhani
Ramona Malabad
Kiromikinoshka Malave
Akira Malaver
Nikesha Mangey
Mohamed Elyes Marouki
Laynee Marsee
Clifton Martin
Jada Martinez
Jennifer Martinez
Tito Ambrosio Martnez
Chynna Mattair
Randy Matthews
Anessa Mayorga
Patrick McAvoy
Tia McCallum
Kylie McClelland
Nicholas McClenton
Katelynn McCoy
Dylan McDonald
Kayla Mcginty
Chayse McGirt
Tiffany McGregor
Lauren McKelvey
Jacovia McKenzie
Cassandra McLellan
Sarah McMinn
Shante' McPhee
Walter McTague
Joseph Meade
Michael Meadows
Rocio Medina
Daniela Mejia
Madison Melendez
Sarah Melgoza
Marelyn Mendoza
Jacquelin Menocal
Emily Metten
Barbara Miller
Emma Miller
George Miller
Kristen Miller
William Mills
Huvonnya Minnis
Anthony Miranda Cruz
Maxim Mischenko
Neel Mistry
Samuel Mitchell
Lina Moaoui
Ma'kayla Mobley
Michael Monaco
Tania Montalvo
Luisa Montanez
Antonella Montano
Jessica Moody
Rachelle Moody
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Jon Moore
Milton Morales
Robert Morales
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Aaliyah Moultrie
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Rohith Reddy Musku
Alexis Musser
Nancy Myers
Raygan Nairn
Thomas Neal
Jeremy Negroni
Ellie Nelson
Susan Nelson
Haley Nestor
Christopher Nettles
De'ondre Newkirk
Hung Nguyen
Zariah Nicholas
Stephany Nieto
Christine Nieves
Juliette Nieves
Gerald Njoroge
Tonya Norman
Mackenzie Norrie
Luzia Obermeier
Madison Ocasio Jusino
Arthur Oliveira
Josep Orellana
Michael Orellana
Nicholas Orlick
Maggie Isolina Ortega
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Janisza Ortiz
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Raphael Osswald
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Michael Ottleben
Angela Owens
Erica Owens
Jennifer Owens
Stephanie Owens
Teah Owens
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Kiara Padilla
Yarlin Padilla Gomez
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Carrie Palmeter
Maria Palomba
Aikaterini Papageorgiou
Eric Pappalardo
Danielle Pardee
Gianella Paredes
Demaijha Parker
Jainam Patel
Sade Patsalos
Laura Patton
Pamella Stephany Mariana Pena
Sandra Pena-Saavedra
Benjamin Perez
Christopher Perez
Jacqueline Perez
Nicholas Perez
Octaver Perez
Osbaldo Perez
Tito Perez
Mekhi Perkins
Liliana Perruso
Chrisjon Perry
Quana Perry
Pia Perthen
Jessica Peters
Peyton Petry
Floyd Phifer
Charlene Phillips
Zachary Phillips
John Pierson
Ella Pingalore
Isabella Plazza
Salvatore Polizzi
Jacqueline Pollok
Samdaly Polycarpe
Sebastian Pomales
Latia Pompilus
Jayrodd Poole
Jesse Poon
Tyler Porter

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Heather Proctor
Noah Pruszinski
Dominic Pugliese
Alyssa Pumo
Olivia Purdy
Benjamin Quinn
Olga Quinto Chamorro
Kaelan Racculia
Hector Ramirez
Eduardo Ramos
Jenna Raskopf
Mia Ray
Peter Ray
Chakiya Reed
Rebecca Regensburger
Brenna Reinhard
Tiffany Rejano
Adriana Del Valle Reyes
Justin Richey
Hannah Rinkenberg
Brianna Rion
Leonardo Rios
Alina Rivera
Claudia Julia Rivera
Naomi Rivera
Sharon Rivera
Stephanie Rivera
Eriel Roberts
Benjamin Robinson
Ryan Robinson
Ryan Robinson
Claudia Borbon Roca
Kayla Rodgers
Araceli Rodriguez
Arianna Rodriguez
Brianna Rodriguez
Sheila Rodriguez
Mercedez Rogers
Taylor Rogers
Aneli Rojas
GabrielDavid Rojas
Alexander Roldan
Adaja Rolle
Vashti Rolle
Christine Roman
Maribel Rosado
Guadalupe Rosales
Yenderly Rosales
Jana Rose
Alicia Ruffin Enzor
Alizabeth Ruiz
Isabella Ruiz
Roslyn Sadler
Diana Sanchez
Meghan Sanchez
Roland Sanchez
Skyler Sander
Patricia Sanders
Tina Sanderson
Cheryl Sandifer
Alex Hendrick Santamaria
Jordyn Santiago
David Santiago Ramirez
MariaDelMar Santos
Ilham Saphis
Brenna Schauer
Eden Schlegel
Amber Schoup
Delvone Scott
Ryan Selgren
Forgive Semackor
Marian Semlow
Noel Sepulveda-Ramos
Francesca Serrano
Kamilya Shailina
Victoria Sharief
Candace Shaw
Kamaria Sheriff
Connor Shinholser
Jordan Shoti
Kiara Sicat
Sheldonia Sidberry
Elijah Silas
Antonieta Afrana Silva
Branddon Silva Ortiz
Joanna Simms
Raegan Simms

Amber Simon
Saminder Singh
Starasia Sinor
Corey Smith
Dylan Smith
Erin Smith
Jaden Smith
Maiya Smith
Megan Smith
Rieker Smith
Heather Snyder
Kerin Spadaro
Stewart Spencer
Marta Sperotto
Grace Ann Spurza
Robert St Romain
Esperenta St. Louis
Rylee Standridge
Keisha Stevenson
Joselyn Storm
Hailey Stover
Cajsa Strandberg
Joseph Stratis
Jessica Suber
Alaina Sugar
Fatima Sullivan
Mikaela Sullivan
Shiraya Sumner
Ashley Sunley
Parker Surace
Tasha Tardy
Victor Tavera
Charleen Taylor
Vincent Thiel
Haley Thigpen
Azariah Thomas
Chasidy Thomas
Christy Thomas
Haleigh Thomas
Kyle Thomas
Morgan Thomas
Clay Thompson
Jamie Thompson
Robert Thorpe
Rebecca Tilley
Juliana Torres
Madonna Torres-Santiago
Karin Toscano
Katie Towns
Donald Tozier
Yilda Trejo Garcia
Sashua Truitt
Dawson Turner
Jaleesa Turner
Paige Vaassen
Valeria Valbuena Biondi
Ava Valenti
Rashawna Valentine
Marcela Patricia Vallejos
John VanAernam
Julian VanDeventer
Jessica Vanessa Mendoza
Janil Vargas Marti
Sol Vazquez
Roger Alejandro Velasquez
Andrea Ventura
Jordan Verdugo
Vanessa Vermette
Daniel Vida
Olivia Vilhauer
Caden Vines
Paul Vitaliti
John Vogt
Samantha Vrbancic
Jamale Walker
Mu-Nee Walker
Teresa Walker
Vincent Wallace
Shyanne Waller
Tolesia Wardlow
Lanaisia Warrick
Stacey Washington
Verlina Webb
Amberlyn Wedge
Daniel Wendland
Frances Wesby
Tiran West
Montraye Whaley
John Wharton

Cheyanna Wheeler
Denise Whitaker
Regina White
Silvey White
Landon Whittington
Lauren Whittington
Abigale Wigh
Adriana Williams
Danielle Williams
Eboni Williams
Ivanna Williams
Javeon Williams
Kayla Williams
Malika Williams
Oluwatobiloba Williams
Terry Ann Williams
Torin Williams
Warren Williams
Daniel Williamson
Mirielle Williamson
Leslie Willis
Chase Wilson
Shunta Wilson
Voncyle Wilson
Emiliana Windsor Nelson
Gordon Wing
Jamal Wise
David Alexander Wong
Kendall Wood
Kamera Woodruff
Kevin Wright
Gadiel Yap
Polina Zadirei
Debora Lucia Zevallos Espinoza

Associate's Degrees

1. Josie Allen-Choate
2. Sabrina Baker
3. Chataura Baul
4. Fabrice Bulambo
5. Danielle Davis
6. Jasmine Davis
7. Caitlin Dempsey
8. Angel Fani
9. Christopher Flores
10. Anabel Gonzalez
11. Jonquil Goston
12. Jaecy Greene
13. Andrea Hall
14. Herisha James
15. Kivinie Johnson
16. Farah Karam
17. Breanna Koenig
18. Tamika Lambert
19. Victoria Linville
20. Jesse Lloyd
21. Ariana Lopez
22. Connor McCall
23. Charles McGuire
24. Kenneth Miller
25. Tara Mills
26. Malik Moodie
27. Marcus Moodie
28. Safietou Ngom
29. Raquel Nicodemus
30. Damien Nuey
31. Lisa Potter
32. Jeremy Richard
33. Brianna Ross
34. Rachel Santiago-Rivera
35. Enrique Santos
36. Leigha Sauceda
37. Sion Simmons
38. Alexander Smith
39. Valeria Techera
40. Alexzandrea Telesha
41. Jennifer Temores
42. Clara Tyndall
43. Sabrina Vermeulen
44. Denise Walker
45. Asia Wright
46. Sergio Zavala Salas

The following names were provided by the Registrar as of April 15, 2025.

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